

September 23, 2002

**PETITION FOR APPROVAL
OF AMENDMENT TO THE
INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT
BETWEEN BELLSOUTH
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC.
AND THE ELECTRIC POWER
BOARD OF CHATTANOOGA**

DOCKET NO.
02-00809

ORDER APPROVING AMENDMENT TO THE INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT

This matter came before Chairman Sara Kyle, Director Deborah Taylor Tate, Director Pat Miller of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the “Authority”), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on September 9, 2002 to consider, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Petition for approval of the third amendment to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and the Electric Power Board of Chattanooga.

The original interconnection agreement between these parties was filed on June 20, 2001 and was assigned Docket No. 01-00542. It was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on August 7, 2001. The first amendment to the agreement was filed on April 2, 2002 under Docket No. 02-00341. The Authority approved the first amendment on May 21, 2002. The second amendments were filed on May 6, 2002 under Docket No. 02-00510. The third amendment, which is the subject of this docket, was filed on July 24, 2002.

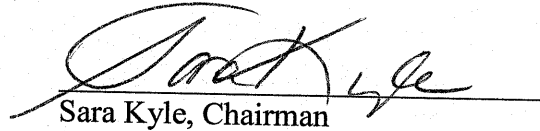
Based upon the review of the third amendment, the record in this matter, and the standards for review set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Directors unanimously granted the Petition and made the following findings and conclusions:

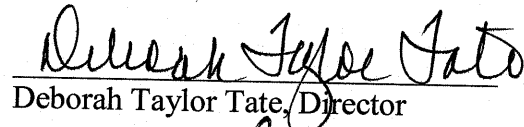
- 1) The Authority has jurisdiction over public utilities pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.
- 2) The amendment is in the public interest as it provides consumers with alternative sources of telecommunications services within the BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. service area.
- 3) The amendment is not discriminatory to telecommunications service providers that are not parties thereto.
- 4) 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A) provides that a state commission may reject a negotiated agreement only if it “discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement” or if the implementation of the agreement “is not consistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity.” Unlike arbitrated agreements, a state commission may not reject a negotiated agreement on the grounds that the agreement fails to meet the requirements of 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 or 252(d).¹ Thus, although the Authority finds that neither ground for rejection of a negotiated agreement exists, this finding should not be construed to mean that the amendment is consistent with §§ 251 or 252(d) or, for that matter, previous Authority decisions.
- 5) No person or entity has sought to intervene in this docket.
- 6) The amendment is reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.

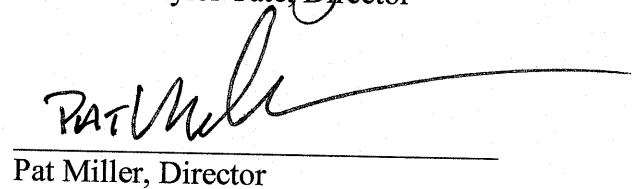
¹ See 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(B)(Supp. 2001).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:

The Petition is granted, and the third amendment to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and the Electric Power Board of Chattanooga is approved and is subject to the review of the Authority as provided herein.


Sara Kyle, Chairman


Deborah Taylor Tate, Director


Pat Miller, Director